NBC

ADVERTISER SUSTAINING - - NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS OK # 486

CHICAGO OUTLET BLUE

(TIME 8:00 A.M.) (DATE MAY 15, 1942) (DAY FRIDAY)

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

C-PRO. 95

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

MUSIC: THEME

ANNOUNCER: Soon, all over America, the striking figure of a red monster of fire rushing through a green, productive forest will symbolize an urgent, compelling need of today - the prevention of fire in the forests of our country....This 1942 poster was created by the well-known artist, Willy Pogany, to spread the message that "Forest Fires Delay Victory." It is up to us now, up to every blessed one of us, to heed the message so dramatically portrayed. Forest fires do indeed delay Victory and each one of us must help, with every ounce of energy at his command, to strike down that terrible enemy of our nation's war effort - the red monster - Forest Fire!

At the Pine Cone National Forest a supply of the 1942 forest fire prevention posters has just arrived, and Jerry Quick, Acting Ranger while Jim Robbins is away on a special wartime assignment is discussing the new poster with Jim's wife, Bess. Here they are:

JERRY: (FADING IN) What about it, Mrs. Robbins? Does this poster tell the story or does it tell the story!

BESS: (LAUGHING) If you'll just let me get a good look at it, Jerry. The way you're holding it I can't....

JERRY: Here, let me set it flat on the desk....Now, see?

BESS: (READING) Strike down this monster! (STRAIGHT) Yes, a forest fire is a cruel monster.

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

MUSIC: THEME

ANNOUNCER: Soon, all over America, the striking figure of a red monster - fire running through a green, productive forest will symbolize an urgent, compelling need of today - the prevention of fire in the forests of our country....This 1942 poster was created by well-known artist, Willy Pogany, to spread the message that "Forest Fires Delay Victory." It is up to us now, up to every decent one of us, to heed the message so dramatically portrayed. Forest Fires Delay Victory and each one of us must help, with every ounce of energy at his command, to strike down that terrible enemy of our nation's war effort - the red monster - forest fire!

At the Fire Cone National Forest a supply of the 1942 forest fire prevention posters has just arrived, and Terry Gibbs, acting Ranger while Jim Robbins is away on a special wartime assignment, is discussing the new poster with Jim's wife, Ess. Here they are:

TERRY: (PAUSING IN) What about it, Mrs. Robbins? Does this poster tell the story or does it tell the story?

ESS: (LAUGHING) If you'll just let me get a good look at it, Terry. The way you're holding it I can't....

TERRY: Here, let me set it flat on the desk....Now, sure?

ESS: (PAUSING) Strike down this monster! (STRAIGHT) Yes, a forest fire is a cruel monster.

JERRY: That's this awful looking red wolf that's charging through the forest. See? The fire wolf.

BESS: And that man bravely standing up to the fire wolf with his axe ready to strike.... Who does he represent, Jerry? Anybody in particular?

JERRY: Everybody, I'd say. You and me and every man, woman and child in America. We've all got to pitch in and stop forest fires, see?

BESS: OF course, He's the symbol of every patriotic American citizen.

JERRY: Yeah...Say, I gotta get busy and get these posters around, I know the schoolhouse will want one, and the postoffice and a lot of the stores in town.

BESS: Yes indeed...Did you notice the ship and tanks and guns and airplanes in the background there, Jerry? I suppose that's to show that out of the forests our fighting forces get the wood and other raw materials that go into their weapons of war.

JERRY: Right. It's to help point up the big theme of the poster...see? ...that "Forest Fires Delay Victory."

BESS: Yes, you can see that the man with the axe could be better employed getting out wood for the war instead of having to fight that fire wolf, Jerry.

JERRY: That's the point, Mrs. Robbins. Every time somebody's got to stop his regular work to fight fire our war effort loses that much time and labor.

BESS: You know what this picture reminds me of, Jerry?

JERRY: What?

BESS: Well, it reminds me of some of the pictures in our old Bible. Like David against Goliath.

JERRY: Yeah...I think I'll write Jim and tell him we've got our new posters. He'll be glad to know about 'em...he's been so concerned about fire danger here on our Forest....Let's see, where's Jim supposed to be now?

BESS: In the Northwest, Jerry. You can write him care of the Regional Forester in Portland, Oregon.

JERRY: That's right. He's supposed to arrive at the Regional Office today, isn't he?

BESS: Yes. To help in fire training...I s'pect he's probably there right now...perhaps talking (FADE) with the Regional Forester....

PAUSE

JIM: (FADING IN) Let me get this straight, Mr. Watts. These Forest Service Reserves I'm goin' to work with....they're all local folks that are volunteering to defend the forests of Oregon against fire?

WATTS: To defend the forests of Oregon against fire <u>from any cause</u>, Jim. Groups like this are being formed in the States of Washington and California, all up and down the West Coast. They're all ages, these volunteers, Jim....from 18 to 60...and they're might fine people, believe me. They're people interested in conserving their Nation's forests - outdoor clubs, skiing and mountaineering and hiking groups, and just plain citizens, ranchers and the like. It sure is gratifying to see all these people rallying to help protect our forests. We'll need a lot of help like that this year.

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BESS: Well, it reminds me of some of the pictures in our old Bible. Like David against Goliath.

JERRY: Yeah.... think I'll write Jim and tell him we've got our new rangers. He'll be glad to know about 'em...he's been so concerned about fire danger here on our Forest....Let's see, where's Jim supposed to be now?

BESS: In the Northwest, Jerry. You can write him care of the Regional Forester in Portland, Oregon.

JERRY: That's right. He's supposed to arrive at the Regional office today, isn't he?

BESS: Yes. To help in fire training...I s'pect he's probably there right now...perhaps talking (YAWN) with the Regional Forester.

PAUSE

JIM: (FADING IN) Let me get this straight, Mr. Watts. These Forest Service Reserves I'm goin' to work with....they're all local folks that are volunteering to defend the forests of Oregon against fire?

WATTS: To defend the forests of Oregon against fire from now on. Groups like this are being formed in the States of Washington, California, all up and down the West Coast. They're all ages, these volunteers, Jim....from 18 to 60...and they're right people, believe me. They're people interested in conserving Nation's forests - outdoor clubs, skiing and mountaineering, hiking groups, and just plain citizens, rangers and the like. It sure is gratifying to see all these people rallying to help protect our forests. We'll need a lot of help like that this year.

JIM: What impresses me most about the Forest Service Reserves is this, Mr. Watts. They strike me as being a plain, practical outfit. No uniforms, no flubdub, no nonsense.

WATTS: Well, they just want to help protect a country they all love. I guess that just about covers it.

JIM: Yeah. I reckon what they've got to do in keeping fires down is certainly a mighty important war job, too....Well, I'd like to get going. I want to meet these fellows and work with 'em. I reckon I'll get a bigger kick out of this than they will.

WATTS: I'm glad they sent you here to give us a hand on this fire training, Jim. A lot of our own men are gone now, you know... I've arranged for one of the boys to take you out to the National Forest where there's a group of Reserves ready now for their field training. I think you ought to try them out on a small test fire.

JIM: All finished with their preliminary training in town, huh?

WATTS: Right...before you go though, you might like to see this new 1943 Fire prevention poster. It just came in this morning...(PAPER RUSTLING) There she is. What do you think of it?

JIM: (READING) Strike down this monster...Forest Fires Delay Victory... (STRAIGHT) Say, that's a horry. Look at that mean old fire ...You know, I'd like to take a few of these posters with me, Mr. Watts. To show to the boys. Maybe it'll give 'em a boost to know that everybody's goin' to enlist in this fight against forest fires, every true American.

WAITE: Sure. That's a good idea. And, Jim, tell your fire fighters this too... That all America knows what we're facing and preparing for here on the West Coast. By we, I mean the State authorities as well as the Federal Government; private citizens as well as industry. Tell them everybody's hoping and praying that we can lick the old devil - fire....

JIM: Yes sir. And I'll bet they're just the babies that can do, (FADE) too.

PAUSE

FADE IN OUTDOOR CROWD NOISE

JIM: Like I say, fellas, there's nothin' romantic about fighting forest fires...I know, just from looking at you tough birds (LAUGHTER) that some of you don't need to be told that. But for the rest of you: forest fire fightin' is grim work, grimy work, an mean and dangerous as war itself. It means diggin' and choppin' and long, long hours of work and sweat.

VOICES: (OFF) You tell 'em, Ranger...C'mon let's get goin'....Etc.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, seein' as how you're so anxious to get goin' I'll stop my speech making...Ranger M here's got you all lined up with your pumps and shovels and Pulaskis, I see. We're goin' to have a small fire now in a spot of slash that's been 'specially prepared so it won't do any harm and...

ED: (WHISPERING EXCITEDLY) Jim there's smoke coming up over there east of where the slash area if.

JIM: (SUTTO) You sure, Ed? Maybe one of the boys set 'em off ahead of time.

ED: No, Jim. It's way east of where we were goin' to have the test fire, I tell yuh. And all the men are right here. I was sittin' to start the little test fire myself. That's a real fire over there, man, no foolin'.

JIM: O.K., Ed. Don't let on. Let 'em believe it's the test fire. We'll see what these boys can do. You better hot-foot it over the ridge and see if you can get whoever started that fire. Take a couple of the boys with you if you want to.

ED: No, you'll need 'em here...Well, I'm on my way. (GOING OFF) Good luck, Jim.

JIM: (RAISING VOICE) All right, fellers. There's our fire goin' there on that ridge back of you. Let's go (FADE) we got work to do!

PAUSE

FADE IN CRACKLING FLAMES, SWWING

JIM: That's it, Gene. Good work, Paul. You boys are lumberjacks for sure! Look out now. Your snag's 'bout ready to fall...(SHOUTING) T-i-b-b-e-r!

TREE FALLS WITH CRASH

JIM: Nice goin', boys. You dropped 'er right where she was supposed to fall. Clean up your job here and then move up along the line. I want to help Bob up ahead there....Quite a fire for a testing fire, huh, Bob? You're doin' a swell job, boy, but let me have that tool a minute...Here, see? (SCRAPING)...you gotta get down to the dirt with your digging. Fire can't crawl through dirt where it don't have no leaves or pine straw to eat on. Get the idea?

ED: (OFF) Jim...Yo, Ranger Robbins!.....Jim Robbins!

JIM: That sounds like Ed calling me...(CALLS) Coming Ed!

ED: (OFF) I'm here, over here in the burn!

JIM: (CALLS) Coming, Ed! (STRAIGHT) That's it, Steve, you're usin' that shovel like a trooper. Pour the dirt to 'er...Hey, you Sam! Keep movin' on up with your axe, feller...Get that fire line laid out... That's the stuff. You'll be runnin' into the boys comin' around the other way directly.

ED: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Over here, Jim...

JIM: I'm comin', Ed...

FADE IN SCUFFLING SOUND.

ED: (ON) All right, Bud, squirmin' ain't goin't to help yuh any. I got yuh so you won't get away, so just quit tryin' to.

JIM: (COMING ON) Well, we got company, I see. Who is it Ed?

ED: Just the feller who started our little fire here, that's all, Jim. I caught him just as he was about to set another one up the creek aways. He was kinda surprised to see me, Jim. Didn't know the Reserves were on the job, I guess.

JIM: Who are you? What's the idea of settin' the woods afire?... Well..?

ED: Jim, this is the untalkinest feller I've ever run up against. He just won't talk. What d'yuh think we oughta do with him. Throw 'im in the fire? That's what he deserves.

ED: (OFF) Jim... Yo, Ranger Robbins!.....Jim Robbins.

JIM: Then sounds like Ed calling me...(CALLS) Coming Ed!

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JIM: (CALLS) Coming, Ed! (STRAIGHT) That's it, Steve, you're [illegible] that moved like a trooper. Pour the dirt to 'er...hey, [illegible] Ben! Keep movin' on up with your axe, Felix...Get that [illegible] line laid out... That's the start. You'll be running lines [illegible] boys moving around the other way directly.

ED: (CLOSELY OFF) Over here, Jim...

JIM: I'm coming, Ed...

FADE IN SQUELCHING SOUND.

ED: (OFF) All right, Bob, squirmin' ain't going to help you any. See you so you won't get away, so just quit cryin' to.

JIM: (COMING ON) Well, we got company, I see. Who is it Ed?

ED: Just the fellow who started our little fire here, the [illegible] I compare him just as he was about to get another one up the [illegible] again. He was kinda surprised to see me, Jim. Didn't know you Rangers were on the job, I guess.

JIM: Who are you? What's the idea of setting the woods afire? [illegible] Well...?

ED: Jim, this is the metallurgist fellow I've ever run [illegible] just won't talk. What d'you think we ought to do with him. [illegible] in the fire? That's what he deserves.

JIM: Yeah, I reckon that's what he deserves all right, but we can't do that. And we better not let our fire-eatin' crew see him either.. I'll tell you what. I'll send a couple of the boys back to help you get this feller to town. Unless I'm greatly mistaken the F.B.I's going to be interested in this man. Setting forest fires comes under the head of sabotage these days.

ED: That's right...Say, how're they doin', Jim? The boys? You told 'em about the fire being the real McCoy?

JIM: No, Ed, I haven't told 'em yet. And I don't think it'd matter one way or the other...Ed, you've got the doggonnedest fire fightin' fellers in your outfit here that I've ever seen, and I've seen some fire fightin' in the last 20 years or so, too.

ED: They've got the stuff, huh?

JIM: They're licking that fire to a stand-still and in short order too. Mister, I shouldn't wonder that when this blamed war is over the work of the volunteer fire fighters here on the West Coast will be told about in letters a foot high. You don't have to tell them that forest fires delay victory! They know, and what's more they're (FADING) doin' something about it.

MUSICAL FINALE

ANNOUNCER: Next week will find Ranger Jim Robbins in California inspecting the newest war-time activity of the Forest Service - the growing of guayule (Y U-Lee) for rubber....Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday during the National Farm and Home Hour with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

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ED: They've got the stuff, Jim?

JIM: They're aiming that fire to a stand-still and in short order, too. Mayor, I shouldn't wonder that when this blessed war is over the work of the volunteer fire fighters here on the West Coast will be told about in letters a foot high. You don't have to tell them that forest fires delay victory! They know, and what's more they're (FADING) doin' something about it.

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